

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA REGIONAL GROUP

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October, 2005

Mr. Steve Marzolf
Public Safety Communications Coordinator
Virginia Information Technologies Agency
Division of Public Safety Communications
411 East Franklin Street, Suite 500
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Marzolf

Our Southwest Virginia Regional Group would like to briefly offer our additional thoughts regarding the Wireless Board meeting held on September 14, 2005. Most of our members are also members of APCO as well as many of the other organizations referenced during your Board meeting. It is vital for all groups concerned with E-911 to have the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns to the Wireless Board. This was accomplished, and we will support the efforts of the Wireless Board with regard to VoIP and the Best Practices, and Funding initiatives.

Not all state and federal agencies are the friends of local governments; however, the Wireless Board is a success story. The Board has provided leadership, funding, and assistance to all localities within the Commonwealth that have requested help. As was stated in the meeting, localities must adapt to emerging technologies in the not too distant future. We feel that it must be the mission of the Wireless Board to address all these issues and to continue with assistance to localities that do not have the resources necessary to fully embrace these technologies by themselves. This statement comes from our past relationship and experience with the Wireless Board and Staff. By ourselves, we could not have done all that has been accomplished, and we could not have relied on local government funding to provide the resources necessary to comply with the mandates.

Our member towns, cities, and counties felt it would be a disservice to the citizens of the Commonwealth to limit the scope of the Wireless Board to only wireless issues. To serve all stakeholders who use 911 services, the Wireless Board and Staff must be involved in all the issues related to the localities' ability to provide efficient and economical service.

Again, our Southwest Virginia Regional Group offers our support and thanks to the Wireless Board for what it has done for our member agencies, and we will support any future leadership you can offer in the emerging technologies that will face us in the future.

Sincerely

Southwest Virginia Regional Group

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Albert F. Humberg Town of Wytheville
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Tom Brunson Wythe County 911

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